



CREEPY
#141
WARREN
MAGAZINE

SEPT. 1982

A
WORLD IN
UPHEAVAL!
MADNESS
AND
MAYHEM
IN THE
RUINS
OF "THE
CHECKOUT
COUNTER!"

MORE!
GIANT
KILLER
BATS
ON THE
RAMPAGE
IN "MORAL
BLOOD!"

PLUS!
THE
MAN-MADE
MONSTER
LIVES!
"I CREATED
THE
GARGOYLE!"

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POSEABLE!

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Dear Uncle Creepy

When I thumbed through CREEPY #138 in my local drugstore and saw all that fantastic art and mind-boggling action I had to buy it! And the issue did not disappoint me.

"Derekt," "Lamb to the Slaughter," and "Dreamworld" were my favorites in the issue, but what was the idea of printing "Cry of the Gipins"? The name of your magazine is CREEPY, not SPACE ADVENTURE!

But then I came to understand why you would print a story like "Gipins." You published it because you figure that science fiction and adventures in space are popular now, and that all the kids want to read it. Wrong, laser break! I buy CREEPY for all-out bone-biting horror. If I want science fiction, there are plenty of magazines to buy or movies to see.

Stick to horror. That's what you do best.

H.G. HENDERSON
Woodstock, GA



CREEPY #138 was the best issue in a long time. Keep those horror and gory stories coming! Too many science fiction stories have been appearing lately.

"Lamb to the Slaughter" was my favorite story. Author John Jacobson wrote a story of horror and mystery, and DeLandio Nino's artwork served the story very well.

"Derekt" started out beautifully with the mystery of the Graf Spee, but author Danielle Dullay must have run out of ideas, because the ending was a let-fall.

"Fools and Kings" managed to hold my interest, and no more. "Dreamworld" was my second favorite of the issue, mostly because of the bloody action. "The Cry of the Gipins" was a mix of science fiction and horror. Normally, the two don't mix, but this time I liked it.

Keep up the good work. Keep the of yellow stripes down our backs.

CHRISTOPHER VANCE
Lake Jackson, TX



There were five stories in CREEPY #138 and out of those five, three were easily forgettable. That's a pretty bad ratio for a magazine that purports to be a source of spine-tingling horror and adolescent nightmares. As a teenager I read CREEPY for some good down-to-earth scary stories and not for edification of pop art.

In the whole magazine there were only two stories that kept me in suspense and gave me a spattering of chills. "Cry of the Gipins" was one of those ho-hum space stories CREEPY usually has, combining an implausible plot with weak imagination. "Dreamworld" told of things that practically happen every day—and such mundane matters are not the stuff from which horror is made. "Fools and Kings" read like a B-grade movie, its fairy tale ending violating the horror credo: never finish a horror story with a happily-ever-after ending.

Listen fellas, you're losing your touch, but I'm looking forward to some hopefully good CREEPY issues in the future.

HARRY PAPADOPOULOS
Jackson Heights, NY

Huh? "Fools and Kings" in CREEPY #138 lost me at about the fourteenth plot twist. Gerry Boudreau kept piling surprise on top of surprise long past the point where anyone could care (or keep track).

As least the art was uncluttered, which is more than can be said of DeLandio Nino's "Lamb to the Slaughter." Still, Nino's wide-open art style is usually worth the nonfusion.

"Derekt" featured some chilling moments, and an ending that took me by surprise. Fred Carrillo's art seemed to complement Danielle Dullay's plot perfectly.

"Dreamworld" and "Gipins" were passable, but I'd like to see more than five stories per issue. By the law of averages, that means we'll get more excellent stories per issue.

R. SCAJURATTA
Spokane, Wash.

Gerry Boudreau continues to be both busy and relatively successful within the pages of this mag; his two stories in #138 were the best of the issue. "Dreamworld" was a believable and chilling tale of the terrible results that can arise when a person who lives an artificial life drifts over into the everyday world. Believable, that is, until the last panel. This was unbelievable and ineffective; it confused the effects of something ("V." in this case) on already warped minds with those on stable ones.

The other two stories had little to recommend them. John Jacobson's "Lamb to the Slaughter" had a meandering, confusing, and overlong plotline. DeLandio Nino really went to town in the gore dept. and his layouts were unnecessarily confusing, though he did not attain the heights of unintelligibility sometimes reached by his brother.

In "The Cry of the Gipins," Dan Hallassey obviously meant to come across with The Big Message, but he



couldn't seem to make up his mind what it was to be. It is also hard to come up with an affecting Message when the reader doesn't care about the story's characters and his 7-page effort left them as being mere ciphers.

I picked up #139 only to find that it's an all-reprint issue. Another one? So what? Much as I admire Alex Toth's artistry, I'd still prefer to see some new material for two or three issues in a row, at least.

Oh well, at least I can turn to page 4 and read some new letters. But no, what's that? Creepy's Capacious Caucus? Well, the information is appreciated, but the style seems just a little inappropriate. Marvel-Bulldog circa 1968, I'd say.

Does this mean that the letters page is a goner? Is it too much to ask for a CCC page and a letters page? Will the same pattern repeat itself in other Warren mags?

T.M. MAPLE
Toronto, Ontario

GREETINGS,
CREEPY-FRIENDS!
YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU
GOT THIS ISSUE
AND THIS ISSUE WILL
BE GLAD TO GET
YOU...!

IT IS FULL
OF MAYHEM AND
MURDER, GARGOYLES
AND BATS AND UGLY
CRITTERS RUNNING
AMOK, COFFINS AND
PACKWOODS. A MEGA-
DOSE OF SHOCK! THE
BUZZ-BEST IN
HORROR!

SO
PUT ASIDE YOUR
GRAVE RESERVATIONS
AND READ
ON!



AURA LEON

I CREATED THE GARGOYLE!

THE NIGHT WAS
LIKE ANY OTHER
ON THE DARK,
DIRTY STREETS
OF NEW YORK
CITY! THERE WAS
ONLY ONE
DIFFERENCE. A
MONSTER WAS
SLOWLY,
VIOLENTLY
WENDING ITS
WAY UP
BROADWAY. A
MONSTER I HAD
CREATED!

RUN,
MELISSA!
THERE'S NOTHING
ANYONE CAN
DO TO STOP THAT
PAMPASING MON-
STERITY!

AFTER FOUR
LONG YEARS OF
BACKBREAKING
RESEARCH TO
FIND THE CURE
FOR CANCER, MY
GOOD FRIEND,
DR. ADAM
EASTMAN, AND I
WERE SUDDENLY
WITNESS TO A
MIRACLE!

OH
MY GOD,
TOMMY,
LOOK!

WE'D BEEN WORKING WITH A
Rhesus Monkey, bombarding
it with gamma radiation.
WHEN SUDDENLY IT BEGAN TO
CHANGE!



THE CREATURE GREW MORE
GROTESQUE BY THE SECOND,
SPROUTING BAT-LIKE
LEATHER WINGS!

I WAS CERTAIN THAT BOTH ADAM AND I
WERE ABOUT TO BE RIPPED TO BLOODY
SHARDS! INSTEAD, THE MONSTROSITY
MOMENTARILY HAWKED, THEN, WITH A
HOWLING WAIL OF PAIN-WRENCHING
RAGE...

IT SHUDDERED AND COLLAPSED, DEAD
AT OUR FEET!

JESUS,
TOMMY! WHAT
HAPPENED?

WITH A ROARING
SURGE OF
POWER... IT BURST
THROUGH ITS
OBSERVATION
CHAMBER,
SPWING
SHATTERED GLASS
EVERYWHERE!

BEFORE WE HAD A CHANCE TO INVESTIGATE THE PHENOMENON, ADAMS' FIANCÉE, GAIL, ARRIVED... JUST AS SHE ALWAYS DID WHEN WE WERE WORKING TOO LATE FOR OUR OWN GOOD!

NEEDLESS TO SAY, SHE WAS AS SHOCKED, EXCITED AND FRIGHTENED AS WE WERE BY WHAT SHE SAW!

GOOD GOD! ADAM, TOMMY! WHAT... WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE? WHAT IS THAT THING?

THAT, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, BABE IS POOCH

YOUR MONKEY? BUT HOW?

WE GAVE HER FIVE HUNDRED C.C.'S OF OUR ANTI-CANCER SERUM THEN BLASTED HER WITH TWO MINUTES OF RADIATION!

YET THE TRANSFORMATION WAS TOO RAPID, TOO GREAT A STRAIN ON HER VITAL ORGANS!

BUT IF WE CAN ALTER LIVING CELLS TO THIS DEGREE, WE MAY SOON BE ABLE TO GENETICALLY PROGRAM CANCER CELLS OUT OF EXISTENCE!

OUR FORMULA COUPLED WITH THE GAMMA RAYS MUST HAVE PHYSICALLY ALTERED HER CELLULAR STRUCTURE!

AS SHOCKED AS WE ALL WERE BY WHAT HAD HAPPENED, WE WERE ENCOURAGED, AS WELL IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, WE KNEW, BEFORE WE WERE ABLE TO CONTROL OUR FORMULA, AND USE IT TO BENEFIT ALL HUMANKIND!

YET, EVEN THE MOST DEVOTED RESEARCH SCIENTISTS NEED A LITTLE TIME FOR FUN THE NEXT NIGHT, ADAM, GAIL AND I WERE INVITED TO THE DEAN'S ANNUAL SUMMER RETREAT PARTY.



I DENIED IT TO THE DEAN'S WIFE, OF COURSE BUT THERE WAS LITTLE I COULD DO TO HIDE IT OR SUPPRESS MY ACHING LOVE FOR GAIL! I WAS ENVOY AS HELL OF ADAM, BUT I COULD NEVER LET EITHER OF THEM KNOW MY TRUE FEELINGS!



YET, JUST SEEING THEM TOGETHER WAS EATING UP MY INSIDES!

GAIL! OH GAIL, IF ONLY YOU KNEW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU!

STILL, DESPITE MY HIDDEN PAIN, I HAD TO GO ON! ADAM AND I WERE TOO DEEPLY COMMITTED TO BREAK UP OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP!

TOMMIE! I'VE GOT IT! I KNOW WHY OUR EXPERIMENTS HAVE ALL BEEN FAILURISH!

WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO KILL HUMAN CANCER CELLS IN ANIMALS! BUT ANIMALS DON T HAVE HUMAN CANCERS!

OUR SERUM WILL WORK JUST AS IT IS, IF ONLY WE USE A HUMAN SUBJECT!

GOOD, ADAM. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

WE'VE NO CHOICE! AND I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO BE THE GUINEA PIG!

NO WAY! IT IS TOO DANGEROUS!

EXCUSES, YOU KNOW WE'RE TRYING TO ERADICATE CANCER! TO DO THAT, WE'D NEED A SUBJECT WITH IT!—OH MY GOD, ADAM, YOU, YOU DON T!

NOW YOU KNOW MY SECRET, BUDDY! MY FANATICAL COMMITMENT TO THIS PROJECT ISN T AS ALtruISTIC AS YOU THOUGHT!

MY ONLY HOPE IS THE SUCCESS OF OUR SERUM!

MY HEART WENT GUT TO ADAM THEN AND THERE! DESPITE HOW I FELT ABOUT HIM AND GAIL, I WANTED TO HOLD HIM TO HIS HUG, HIM TO PROTECT HIM FROM THE MURDEROUS CELLS THAT WERE CHEWING HIS INSIDES TO PIECES!

INSTEAD, ALL I COULD DO WAS GIVE IN TO HIS HUMVES, AND PRAY THAT OUR ANTI-CARCINOMER, COUPLED WITH THE RADIATION TREATMENTS WOULD WORK!

SOMETHING FING DESPERATELY WRONG! ADAM POURLED OVER IN FAME! MY HEART ALMOST STOPPED AS HE SLUMPED TO THE FLOOR!

DON'T BE AFRAID, TOMMY! TURN IT UP FULL-BEAM!

ADAM! OH GGD, ADAM! WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO YOU?

EEEEE

I SHUT DOWN THE RADIATION EQUIPMENT AS QUICKLY AS I COULD, AND URGENTLY RUSHED INTO THE ISOLATION CHAMBER!

ADAM! MANG YOU! YOU'RE CHANGING! JUST LIKE THE MONKEY!

IT'S BONE, TOMMY! TH- THE CANCER'S GONE! I CAN FEEL IT! AWAYAWAY!

HE WAS DRENCHED IN PERSPIRATION! ATONI FINALLY, HE LOOKED AT ME. HIS LIPS TREMBLING AS HE TRIED TO SPEAK!

I WATCHED, HELPLESS, AS MY BEST FRIEND WRITHED ON THE LABORATORY FLOOR SCREAMING FROM THE PAIN TEARING AT THE INSIDE OF HIS BODY THEN JUST WHEN I THOUGHT IT COULD GET NO WORSE... THE REAL NIGHTMARE BEGAN!

I WATCHED IN MUTE HORROR AS ADAM'S BODY SLOWLY BEGAN TO BULGE HIS CLOTHING SPLIT AT THE SEAMS AS HUGE MUSCLES IMPLDED ACROSS HIS BACK AND ARMS! SUDDENLY, TINY BLACK WINGS BURST FROM BETWEEN HIS SHOULDERBLADES, GROWING LARGER AND MORE OMNIBUS WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND!

THEN, THE THING THAT MY BEST FRIEND HAD BECOME, TURNED ITS AWESOME FACE TOWARD MNEY FOR ONLY A MOMENT. I LOOKED INTO THE GARGOYLE-LIKE MONSTROSITY'S MURDEROUS EYES, AND KNEW THAT THIS CREATURE, WAS NO LONGER MY FRIEND!



THE BEAST ROARED THEN IN SAVAGE, MINDLESS ANGER! ADAM'S MIND WAS OBVIOUSLY AS DEFORMED AS HIS BODY!

ADAM PLEASE!

WITHOUT WARNING, IT LAUGHED FOR ME, AND I KNEW THEN THAT ADAM WANTED TO KILL ME FOR MY PART IN HIS HIDEOUS TRANSFORMATION!



I WAS TRAPPED...
KNEW I WAS ABOUT TO
DIE THEN, SUDDENLY,
THE MIRACLE I'D BEEN
PRAYING FOR SAVED ME
FROM THE JAWS OF
DEATH!"

"E-FOAMIN'
OH MY GOD!"

THE
MONSTER
WROTE
WHEN IT
SAW GAIL
AND
FLAPPED
ITS WINGS
IN
OMINOUS
RECOG-
NITION!
THEN, WITH
A MIGHTY
BURST OF
STRENGTH,
IT TURNED
AND BURST
THROUGH
THE
LABORA-
TORY
WINDOW...
TAKING
OUT HALF
THE WALL
AS IT FLEW!

SCRASSSH!

I KNEW THEN
THAT SOME
TINY PART OF
ADMIRAL WAS YET
ALIVE WITHIN
THE
MONSTROSITY
AND THAT HE
DIDN'T WANT
THE WOMAN HE
LOVED TO SEE
HIM IN HIS
GROTESQUE
NEW FORM!

"OH,
TOMMY!
THANK GOD
YOU'RE ALL
RIGHT!"

G-GAIL: I
I'M SO
SORRY! SO... VERY
SORRY!"

IT IS NOT
YOUR FAULT,
TOMMY! A-ADAM
HAD TO DO
IT!"



AT LONG LAST, I HAD WHAT I'D LIVED AWAKE SO MANY NIGHTS PRAYING FOR! GIRL WAS FINALLY IN MY ARMS! YET IT WAS A Bittersweet VICTORY OVER MY RIVAL, IN LOVE...ONE THAT I SIMPLY COULDN'T LIVE WITH, IF IT MEANT THAT MY LIFE-LONG FRIEND WOULD NEVER BE HUMAN AGAIN!

UNKNOWN TO ME, THE THING THAT ADAM HAD BECOME MEANWHILE SWOOPED THROUGH THE SKIES OF MIDTOWN MANHATTAN. ITS GIANTIC WINGS SMASHING THROUGH SOLID STEEL AND CONCRETE, IT FELL TO THE STREET LIKE A PLUMMETING MOUNTAIN, RIPPING THROUGH ASPHALT AND CEMENT...DESTROYING THE VERY GROUND IT WALKED UPON!





THE THING THAT ONCE WAS A MAN SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WOULD NEVER BE A MAN AGAIN!



WITH THE SHOCK REALIZATION, AN OMNIOUS DETERMINATION GRAPPED THE BEAST. AS THOUGH SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAD SNAPPED WITHIN ITS DEMENTED BRAIN VIOLENTLY, DELIBERATELY, IT CLIMBED UP THE FAÇADES FROM BUILDINGS... TORE THROUGH CONCRETE PAVEMENT AND HUNTED AUTOMOBILES AS THOUGH THEY WERE MERE PLAYTHINGS!

MIRACULOUSLY, NOT A SINGLE MAN, WOMAN OR CHILD WAS HURT! IT WAS AS THOUGH ADAM WAS CAUSING DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION SO THE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE FORCED TO RELIEVE HIM OF HIS AWESOME PAIN!



STILL...NOTHING...NOT THE HIGH POWERED INVOLVES OF THE NEW YORK POLICE, OR THE AUTOMATIC WEAPONARY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD COULD SO MUCH AS PENETRATE HIS ROCK-HARD MEAT!

FRUSTRATED, DESPERATE, THE ABOMINATION THAT HAD, ONLY HOURS BEFORE, BEEN MY FRIEND, FLED INTO THE COMFORTING DARKNESS!



GAIL AND I
MEANWHILE,
TORE THROUGH
THE STREETS IN
SEARCH OF THE
GROTTOQUEEN
WE D LOOSED
UPON THE
WORLD!

ITS WAKE OF
DESTRUCTION,
AS WELL AS THE
THROWING,
FRIGHTENED
CROWDS MADE
HIM IT...
TEMPTINGLY
EASY TO FIND!

U UP
THEIR? LOOKIN ON
THE MANHATTAN
BRIDGE?

OH, TOMMY
WHAT CAN
WE DO?

GOD
HELP US.
GAIL, THERE'S
NOTHING WE
CAN DO!

THEN, THAT PART OF THE
CREATURE THAT WAS STILL
HUMAN SEEMED TO
RECOGNIZE THE HORROR AND
PITY IN OUR EYES!

SOMEHOW, IT
UNDERSTOOD
THAT THERE WAS
ONLY ONE THING IT
COULD DO!

WITHOUT HESITATION...WITH
ALL THE POWER IN ITS MIGHTY
BODY, THE BEAST LAUNCHED
FROM THE TOP OF THE
BRIDGE...ITS POWERFUL
WINGS PROPELLING IT.

TO
A
GRISLY,
BONE
CRUSHING
...DEATH

GAIL
CLUNG
TO ME.
TEARS
STREAM-
ING
FROM
HER
EYES

U-LOOK
OUT!

JAWY

IT
IT'S
GOING TO
KILL US
ALL!

KRASSHHARR!

SHE KNEW THAT ADAMS'S
SUFFERING WAS AT LONG LAST.
CHEN IN A WAY, HE'D FOUND
THE CURE HE SOUGHT, BOTH
FOR HIS TORMENTING
CANCER...AND MY INCURABLE
LOVE FOR GAIL!

THE MONSTER HAD BEEN A LOT
MORE HUMAN THAN ANYONE
WOULD EVER KNOW.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS MODEL KITS!

ORC WAR ACTION SCENE

A horde of adventurers assault the evil Wyrdrin's castle! Almost 30 figures, including dwarf warriors, wights, Orcs, minotaurs! Professionally 32 x 16" base includes castle foundations, moat, mountains, battlements! Comes with Dungeon Invaders to form one huge army! #20261-\$10.75

DUNGEON INVADERS ACTION SCENE

Adventurers seek to steal the warchief's treasure chest! They're pursued by wights, orcs and a minotaur, and to reinforce the warchief and the carton warchef! 13 x 20" pre-formed base simulates a real game situation! #20262-\$10.75



MOONRAKER SPACE SHUTTLE MODEL KITS!



MOONRAKER SPACE SHUTTLE. A 1/144 scale model of the famous space shuttle, Moonraker! Finely engraved detail plus authentic decal markings make it a perfect replica of the original. Rare special features include a clear window shield and viewpoint, detailed rocket engines plus an extravehicular figures and display stand. A Moonraker model! #24243/\$4.00

MOONRAKER SHUTTLE WITH BOOSTER ROCKETS An equally two fabulous models in one! This fantastic, technically detailed Space Shuttle featured on the left plus two solid rocket boosters with an external fuel tank! The shuttle can be separated from the boosters and fuel tank. #144, scale kit comes with mobile launch pad base. #24244/\$10.00

PAPERBACK

IRON-ONS!

Be the best-dressed double agent on your team with these colorful iron-ons! Take our pick of Agent 007, a Minotaur, or a Space action hero. The graphics are awesome! (Note: Do Bond it really, the leading man and lots of the greatest comes from 007 in print)



SPACE SHUTTLE BOND IRON-ON
E21152/\$1.25



MOONRAKER JAWS IRON-ON
E211521/\$1.25



BOND & HOLLY IRON-ON
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MOONRAKER PAPERBACK
Harold Ram at the outer 007 movie entrepreneurial! First new Bond book in paper! #21388/\$3.25

JACKIE MOROCO, A SHARK LOOSE IN THE SEA OF
HUMANITY! AN INDIVIDUAL WHO EARNS HIS
LIVELIHOOD BY SNUFFING OUT THE LIVES OF
OTHERS UPON THE COMMAND OF HIS GANGLAND
MASTER! JACKIE MOROCO, A MAN WITHOUT
CONSCIENCE, WHO COMMANDS FEAR FROM ALL
SAVE...

NO, MR. MOROCO!
I CAN'T PAY! I GOT
IT! IT'S A-!

YER TOO LATE,
GREASEBALL COLLECTION
DAY WAS YESTERDAY!



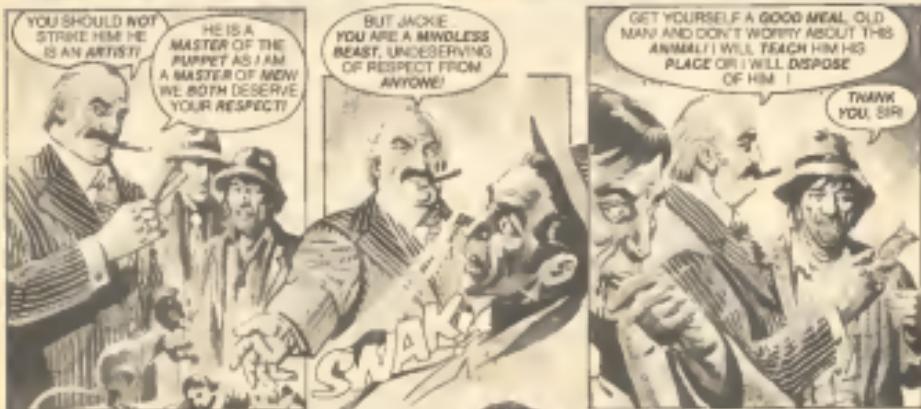
AFTER THIS,
THERE WON'T BE A SINGLE
SHOPKEEPER WHO'LL BALK
AT PAYIN' THE BOSS HIS
TRIBUTE!

FOR THERE'S NOT A SOUL ON MAPLE
STREET WHO HAS THE GUTS TO SQUEAL ON
THIS INHUMAN WERL!

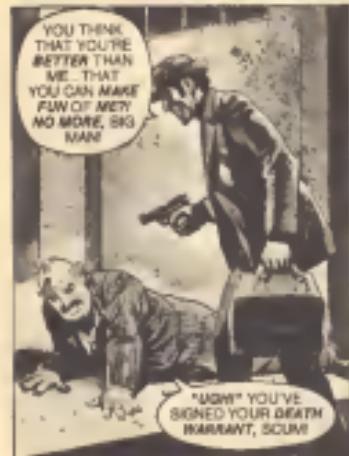


JACKIE IS ON HIS WAY TO REPORT TO HIS BOSS, WHEN...











JACKIE TAKES GARBORRI'S CAR, AND...

THE BOSS KEPT A PLANE READY AT A PRIVATE FIELD IN CASE HE NEEDED A FAST GETAWAY. IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED TO GET OUTTA TOWN!

DRIVING FURIOUSLY, THE FUGITIVE KILLER REACHES THE AIRFIELD, AND...

GET THE PLANE READY! IT'S THE CRIME COMMISSION'S MOVE ON THE ORGANIZATION!

WHAT ABOUT THE BOSS?

THEY ARRESTED HIM, BUT WITHOUT THIS CASE THEY'LL HAVE TO RELEASE HIM. WE GOTTA GET THIS BAD OUTTA TOWN!

THERE'S A BAD STORM MOVING IN. IT MIGHT GET ROUGH.

THERE'S AN EXTRA GRAND IN THIS FOR YOU IF WE MAKE IT, PAL!

THE PILOT ACTS QUICKLY, AND THE PLANE IS SOON AIRBORNE!

DO THAT, PAL! WHEN WE LAND, I'M GONNA HAVE TO SWIFF YOU TOO!

I'M GOING TO TRY TO FLY OVER THESE THUNDERHEADS!

GAH! OUR TAIL'S BEEN SHEARED OFF BY LIGHTNING! HANG ON!

I CAN'T CONTROL IT! USE YOUR CHUTE! HANG ON!

SUDDENLY...





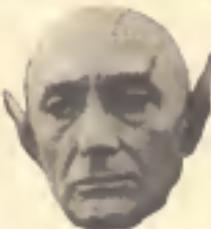
STAR TREK TRADING POST



MR. SPOCK
#62501151.95



KLINGON WARRIOR
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VULCAN MASTER
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LIFELIKE MASKS!

It's not unusual to order the delicate MR. SPOCK mask, or the equally lifelike KLINGON WARRIOR with wavy hair and goatee! And no star fleet commander will invade your space when you wear the KLINGON WARRIOR mask, gruesomely detailed with yak beard and bone-crushed scalp! But there's no match for the pointy ears of the VULCAN MASTER. A face so convincing that friends will think you're a Vulcan when you wear the VULCAN mask! Each professional-quality latex mask is realistically colored and fully detailed!



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SETS. Each features
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No Klingon girl would
let by by to sell you coolness
when you display this magnificent 22 x
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the Enterprise in full color, the other side
is a 1970s-style "Star Trek" poster.
POSTER #62576 \$9.95

BORIS VALLEJO



1983 FANTASY CALENDAR

The best thing about New Year's is that it gives you a chance to hang up a new Boris Vallejo calendar! And the master illustrator of the fantastic has outdone himself with his 1983 entry, featuring more breathtaking landscapes, monstrous creatures and humans than any calendar you've ever seen! \$25.95-\$35.95



BARNABAS COLLINS POSTER

Here is a well timed—or timing that will really get your blood up! If a Jonathan Frid as Barnabas Collins, brooding king of television's DARK SHADOWS! Measuring a full 29 x 41 inches this black and white poster will enhance the walls of any crypt or mausoleum! Hang from the top and you'll ready be ready to leap! (Suggestion: Barnabas tends to jump more comfortably hanging upside down!) So, don't coffin up your blood and order as soon as you can! \$14.95. These things are scarce! BARNABAS POSTER \$29.95-\$39.95

STAR WARS MICRO COLLECTION

BESPIN CONTROL ROOM



Features: Break away windows with remote lenses and special platforms, and four die cast metal Luke and Darth Vader figures in action poses! #0345—\$11.95

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Site of Luke's famed lightsaber duel with Vader! Remote operated gantry door features rotating platform! Four die cast metal figures! #0346—\$11.95

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HOH GENERATOR ATTACK



Features: interlocking generator, and Hoth Walker that stands unanswered and explodes by remote control! With 4 die cast metal figures! #0350—\$11.95

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Special offer! All three interlocking Bespin World playsets for only \$49.95!

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Features: Exploding cannon that clicks and holds a timer; remote controlled bridge; removable elevator assembly; and rope for connecting Luke & Leia scenes! 8 die cast metal figures! #0352—\$13.95

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Hand operated Death compactor with escape hatch that opens at last; remote controlled elevator assembly that removes shell; blast hatch to fit 8 die cast metal figures jumping into compactor! #0354—\$25.95

ESCAPE & COMPACTOR



Both interlocking Death Star World playsets. The Escape and the Compactor available at one savings price! Can be used together or separately. Interlocking of 34 die cast metal figures! #0355—\$39.95

IN THE ERA FOLLOWING THE NUCLEAR WAR, THE FEW SURVIVORS SEARCH THE LANDS FOR FOOD...AND COMFORT...TO MERE WIMPS OF HOPE!

LEGENDS SPEAK OF A WONDERFUL LAND OF GREEN AND FOUNTAIN, WHERE NO MAN NEED FEEL HUNGRY OR WANT. MEN WHO KNOW THE TRUTH OF THE LEGEND ARE HARD TO FIND!

THE CHECK-OUT COUNTER

NOT MUCH
I EAT MINE NOW
BUT HE DOWN TO SPAM
OUTLAST TIME TO GO
TO EDEN AGAIN! BUT
THIS TIME, YOU'RE
GOING IN WITH
ME!

REALLY
REALLY YOU
MEAN IT?

NEITHER
OF YA MOVE
OR I'LL
BLOW YA IN
TWO!

POUNCE
ARE YOU
THE MAN
THEY CALL
PAINTS OF
PLATINUM?
SPEAK
UP!

MOH

IN-MEET

WORD OUT OF FINALLY
IS THAT YOU KNOW WHERE A
PLACE CALLED THE GARDEN OF
EDEN IS! WE BEEN LOOKIN'
FOR YOU FOR A HEART!

OH HEAVY! YOU'RE
GOINNA TELL US WHERE IT
IS. OH-I

WHAT
DONE?

YOU
MUST HAVE
THE HWOOD MAN
SIR I KNOW OF
NO GARDEN OF
EDEN!

PLEASE... I
MAY "DAK" M-HEART
... "NUC"!

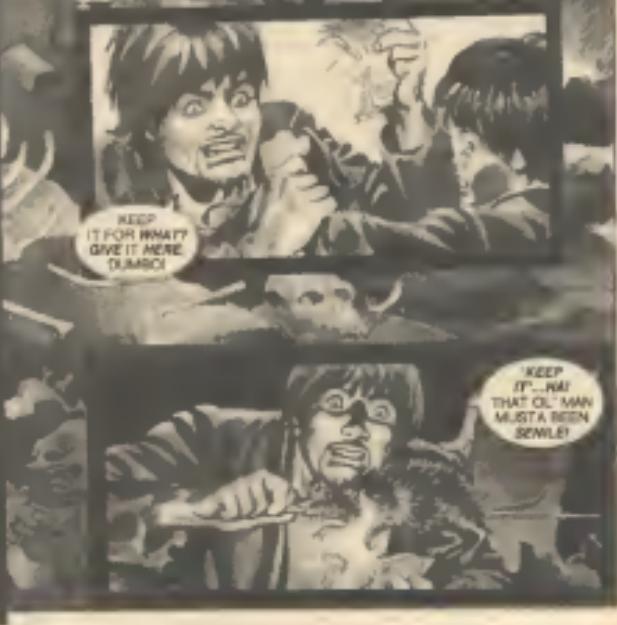
I THINK THE
IDEA WAS TO KEEP
IM ALIVE!

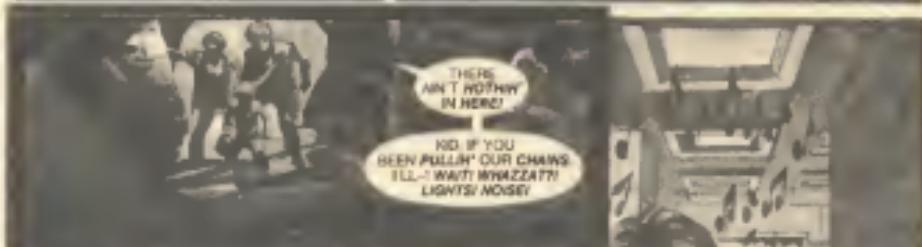
RIGHT!

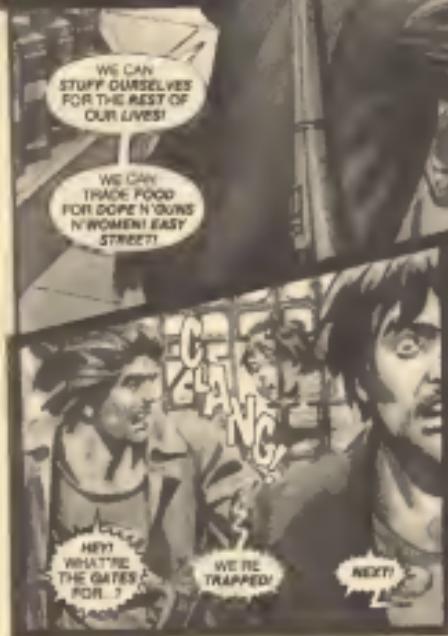
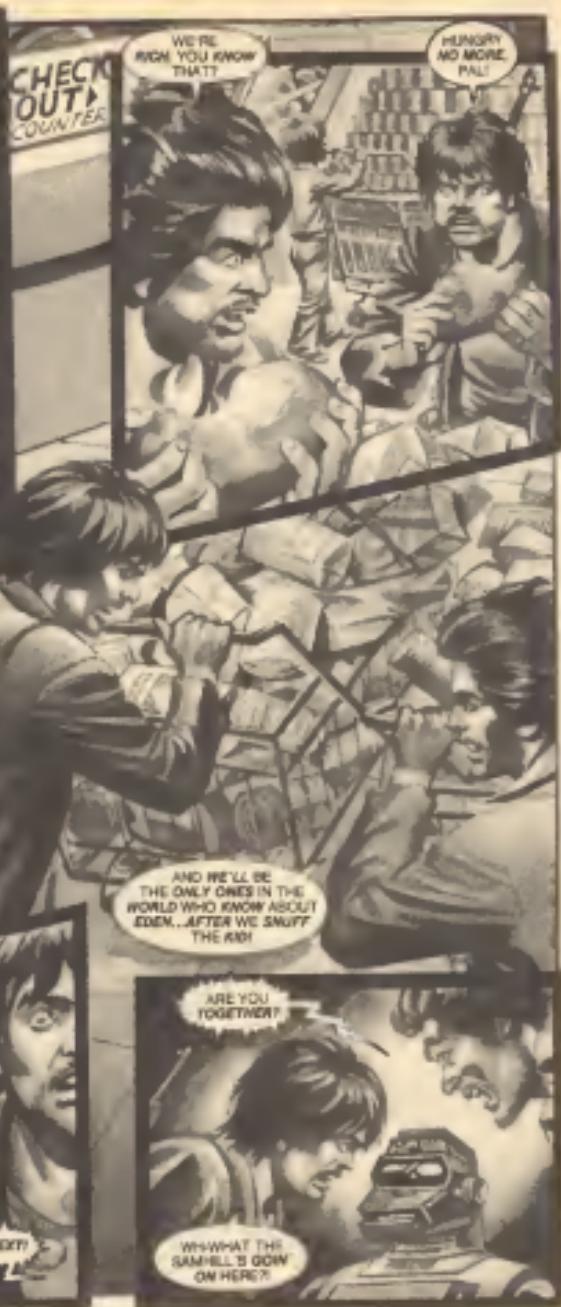
HOM, BOY
...YOU KNOW
WHERE THIS
EDEN IS?

HE HE'S
DEAD!

YOU'RE
GOINNA TAKE US
THERO











LEGENDS SPEAK OF A WONDROUS LAND OF GREEN AND BOUNTY, WHERE NO MAN NEED FEEL HUNGER OR WANT!

LET THE LEGENDS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES! THE MEN THAT KNOW THE TRUTH...AREN'T TALKING!

In full color: dragon logo, sorcerer's apprentice Galen (with glitter) and monstrous Vermithrax Pejorative!

IRON-ONS!

Three colorful scenes: large logo, Indiana Jones on horseback, & small logo plus Indiana holding bullwhip!



DRAGONSLAYER

#26315-\$1.50



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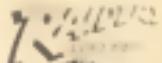
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AND
OTHER
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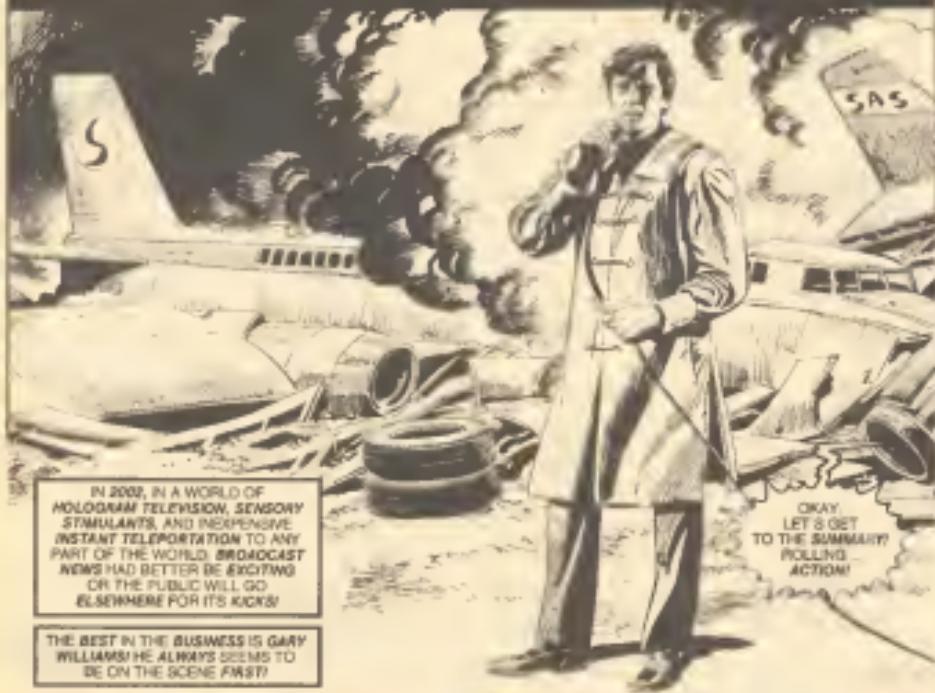


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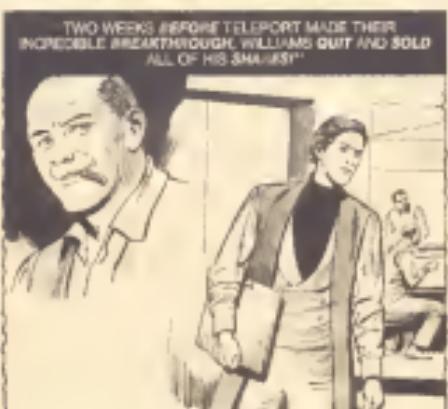
COVERING ALL BASES



THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS IS GARY WILLIAMS! HE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE ON THE SCENE FIRST!

THIS IS GARY WILLIAMS, WITH AN EXCLUSIVE, ON-THE-SPOT REPORT ON ONE OF THE MOST DEVASTATING ACCIDENTS OF THE YEAR! WE'RE BRINGING IT TO YOU FIRST... AND LIVE!







AFTER TAKING WILLIAMS' RETINA PRINT, IT IS COMPARES TO THAT OF THE MURDER VICTIM...

"MM, IT'S DAMN CLOSE, BUT THERE'S TOO MUCH DAMAGE TO BASE A CASE ON! THANK GOD THEY CAN'T GLOW EYEBALLS YET!"

"GIVE THEM A FEW YEARS! THEY'LL WORK IT OUT!"

"WILLIAMS, YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR FOR NOW! BUT I'M STILL DAMNED CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON!"

"INSPECTOR, ALLOW ME TO MAKE A SUGGESTION!"

"ONE OF MY UNDERWORLD CONTACTS MENTIONED A SCHEME TO FIND NEAR-DOUBLES FOR CELEBRITIES, AND AFTER COSMETIC SURGERY, TO DAME A FEW STUDIOS FOR SOME EASY MONEY! MAYBE THIS WAS SUCH A SCHEME THAT WENT WRONG!"



BUT THEN CARLO REALIZES THE OPENING OF THE POWERPLANT THAT WILLIAMS IS COVERING HAPPENED ONLY YESTERDAY! HE KILLED HIM THREE DAYS BEFORE!

"WAIT A MINUTE... AM I GOIN' NUTS? IT WAS DARK, BUT I SAW THE GUY SAW HIM GOOD! I LIKE TO LOOK AT MY VICTIMS AS THEY'RE SWINGIN' IT WAS HIM FOR SURE!"



CARLO'S PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION IS AT STAKE!









WOULD, IN THEORY, NEVER LEAVE WHERE IT STARTED SO THERE WAS A DUPLICATE RUNNING AROUND LOOKING LIKE ME TRAINING LIKE ME!

WHEN I SAW A WAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE, I CREATED MANY MORE! RIGHT?



WE NEEDED A JOB THAT WOULD SUPPORT US AND THAT COULDN'T CATCH US ALL IN THE SAME PLACE AT ONCE! THE NEWS JOBS HAD BEEN OFFERED BEFORE, SO WE SIMPLY ACCEPTED TWELVE OF THE BETTER ONES, SPREAD OUT THE TERRAIN A LITTLE AND MADE A BUNDLE!"



BUT WE NEVER EXPECTED ONE OF US TO GET KILLED!

WAIT A MINUTE! I CAN GET YOU FOR INCOME TAX EVASION YEAR!



BUT FIRST, YOU'D HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE OF US PAID HIS TAXES, AND WHICH SHOULD GO TO JAIL!

AND SINCE ONE OF US LIVES IN TANGIER, YOU CAN'T GET EXTRADITION! COULD YOU DISTINGUISH HIM FROM US? PITY NO CASE!



THEY'VE COVERED ALL THE BASES, THINKS POOR INSPECTOR HAGGIE, AND HAVE ROOM TO SPARE! HE IS JUST GLAD THEY'VE TAKEN UP SOMETHING LEGAL!

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN HELP US WITH!

WHAT IS IT?



IT'S AN INVITATION TO THE FAMILY GET-TOGETHER AND SOFTBALL GAME! WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

PROVIDED THAT IS THAT YOU CAN PITCH BETTER THAN WE CAN!



prologue

MY NAME IS AARON CARPENTER. I HAVE, FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, LIVED IN SUNSET ESTATES, A RESPECTABLE THOUGH UNASPIRING PARADISE, WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS AND ADVANTAGES OF A CONTEMPORARY SUBURB.



MY INCOME AS A GENERAL PRACTITIONER IS CONGRUENT TO COMFORTABLE LIVING, THOUGH IN THESE TIMES, WE COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED OPULENT. MY EIGHT-YEAR MARRIAGE TO MY WIFE, RONN, HAS BEEN A RELATIVELY HAPPY ONE.



I AM NO DIFFERENT, IN MOST RESPECTS, FROM THOUSANDS OF OTHER DOCTORS OF COMPARATIVE AGE AND ABILITY...

SO WHY GENE PINCHOT CHOSE TO BRING HIS TROUBLES TO MY DOORSTEP, I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND.



P-PLEASE
NEED
D-DOCTOR
NEED
HELP!

WHAT
IS YOUR NAME
PLEASE?



MY NAME IS
PINCHOT.
AND I-



THAT WAS ALL HE HAD TIME TO SAY
BEFORE HIS ENTIRE BODY IGNITED
LIKE A ROMAN CANDLE, AND THE
ROOM STANK WITH THE ODOR OF
BURNING FLESH!



IN MY YEARS AS A PRACTICING PHYSICIAN, THERE WAS LITTLE IN THE WAY OF HUMAN PAIN AND SUFFERING THAT I HADN'T SEEN! BUT NOTHING IN THE FURTHEST REACHES OF MY IMAGINATION COULD HAVE PREPARED ME FOR THE SHOCKING SIGHT I HAD WITNESSED THIS NIGHT!

UPON EXTINGUISHING THE FLAMES, WE IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED SHERIFF ARNOLD MOSES! WHEN HE ARRIVED, LITTLE REMAINED FOR HIS EXAMINATION BUT BONE AND ASH!

CANDLE WIND



YOU'LL HAVE TO COME DOWNTOWN WITH ME AND TRY TO IDENTIFY HIM FROM MUG SHOTS!



I SPENT THE AFTERNOON PORING THROUGH BOOKS OF PHOTOGRAPHS, UNTIL THE FACES BECAME AWFULLY FAMILIAR! THE VICTIM HAD INDEED BEEN THE TWO MOSES SPOKE OF, BUT THERE WAS NO INDICATION AS TO THE IDENTITY OF HIS KILLER!

AS EVENING SET IN, I DROVE TO THE HOSPITAL FOR THREE HOURS OF DUTY



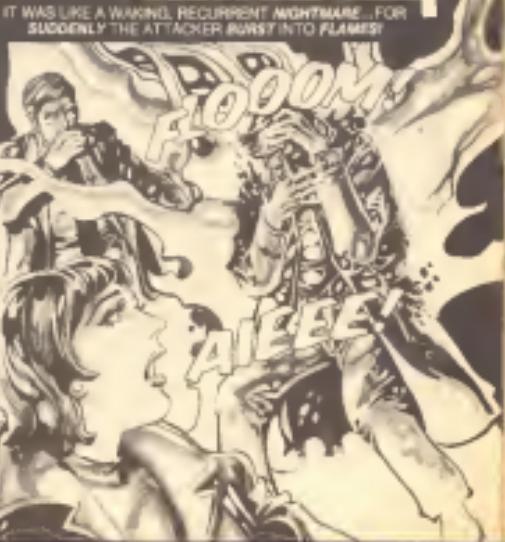
BY TEN O'CLOCK I WAS EAGER TO SET OUT FOR HOME IN THE PARKING LOT I SAW JEAN WEISER, A SOMEWHAT FLIGHTY NURSE...

SUDDENLY



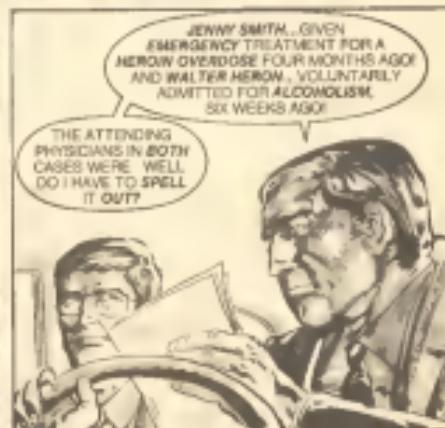
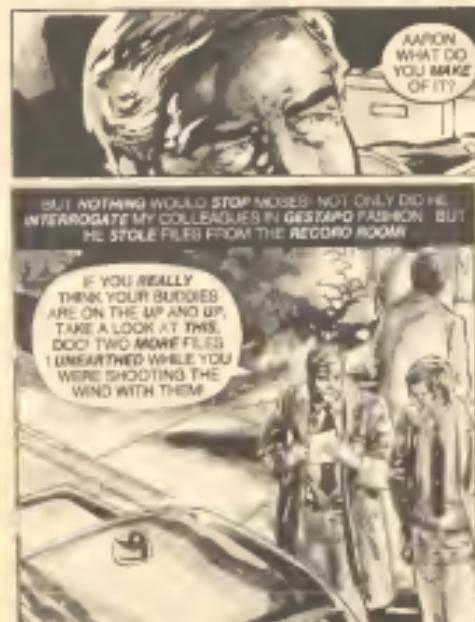
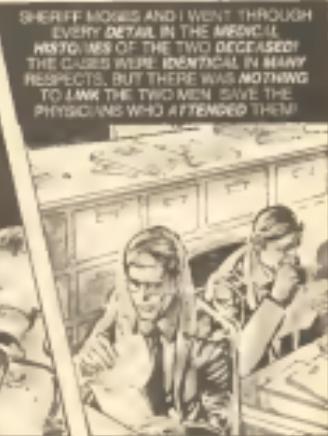
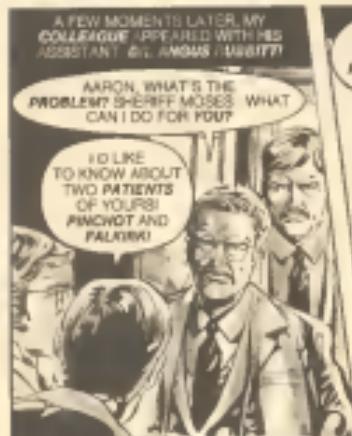
THE NIGHT DRAGGED INTERMINABLY. FORTUNATELY, MY SERVICES WERE NOT URGENTLY NEEDED, FOR I FOUND CONCENTRATION DIFFICULT AND MY MIND HAD A TENDENCY TO WANDER.

IT WAS LIKE A WAKING RECURRENT NIGHTMARE...FOR SUDDENLY THE ATTACKER BURST INTO FLAMES!



AGAIN, I CALLED SHERIFF MOSES, DOING MY BEST TO CALM JEAN IN THE INTERIM. BY THE TIME HE ARRIVED, SHE WAS MORE COMPOSED THAN I.







IT MAY NOT BUT DON'T FORGET THAT PINCH AND TALKER WERE DERELICTS! MAYBE ONE OF OUR DOCTOR FRIENDS HAS A THING AGAINST DEPRAVITY!



THE REMAINDER OF THE TRIP WAS SPENT IN SILENCE, AS I CAREFULLY READ OVER EVERY ITEM IN THE FILES OF JENNIE SMITH AND WALTER HERDIN. SOMEWHERE I FELT THERE WAS A FAMILIAR DETAIL THAT I COULD NOT READILY PINPOINT.



OF COURSE! DIDN'T YOU AND M'WNT JENNY DIE OF A DRUG OVERDOSE LAST WEEK?



WHAT'S IT MATTER TO YOU SHE WAS A BLACK GIRL AND SHE WAS A JUNKIE!

IF THE LAW WANTED
TO DO ANY GOOD FOR JENNY
THEY SHOULD'VE DONE IT WHILE
SHE WAS ALIVE SO DON'T
COME AROUND PRETENDIN' SHE
MATTERS TO YOU NOW! IT'S
A LITTLE TOO LATE FOR
ALL OF US!

SUDDENLY!

MAMA, MAMA
YOU GOTTA HELP
ME, MAMA, I'M
SICK...

JENNY! OH
MY SWEET GOD
...JENNY!

WHAT?

JENNY SMITH, HER DEAD EYES PLEADING,
REACHED TOWARD HER MOTHER WHO BACKED
AWAY EYES WIDE WITH FEAR...

THEN A SUDDEN INCANDESCENT BURST CONSUMED JENNY SMITH.

AN
EXTINGUISHER...
NEAR THE STOVE
QUICKLY!

JENNY
JENNY!

THIS TIME,
WE MANAGED TO
SAVE THE BODY BEFORE
IT WAS TOTALLY
DESTROYED!

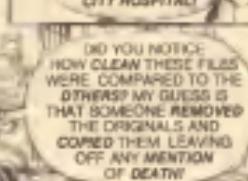
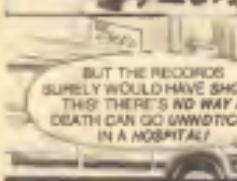
I WOULDN'T
STAKE MY REPUTATION
ON IT, BUT AFTER A
QUICK EXAMINATION I
WOULD SAY...

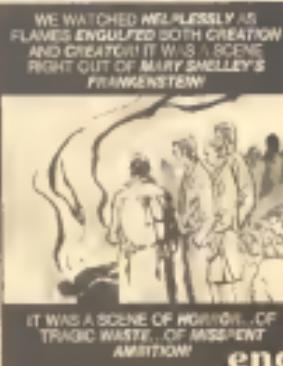
JENNY HAS
BEEN DEAD AT LEAST
A WEEK...

IMPOSSIBLE!
WE ALL SAW HER
WALKING!

FLEETINGLY, I FELT A WAVE OF
SORROW FOR MRS. SMITH.
AFTER ALL, NOTHING COULD
HAVE PREPARED HER FOR THE
SIGHT SHE WAS FORCED TO
WITNESS!

WALKING
PERHAPS ALIVE... NO
CELL DETERIORATION
SUGGESTS THAT DEATH
OCCURRED AT LEAST A
WEEK AGO!





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prologue



THEY SAY HE CAME INTO CEMETARY CREEK
IN THE LATE SUMMER OF '92

TALK WAS HE CALLED
HIMSELF SIDERWINDER!

HE DIDN'T MOTHER WITH NO
OTHER NAME!



TO LOOK AT HIM, FOLKS SWORE, YOU KNEW RIGHT OFF
WHY HE'D PICKED THAT MONICKER. SIDERWINDER! YOU
NEVER KNEW WHICH WAY HE WAS GOING TO STRIKE!

THEY SAY HE CAME IN ON THE 6:10 STAGE FROM TUCSON.
WAY THE STORY GOES, IT WAS ALSO THE SAME NIGHT THE
B 10 NEVER MADE IT!



SUM HEARD THE SNICKER OF THE HORSES AND TURNED TO LOOK. AND SUDDENLY SOMETHING WAS TEARING AT HIS FACE!

THE HORSES TWISTED WILDLY, TRYING TO BREAK FREE! THEIR EYES AND GALLOPING HOOFES BEGAN UNREASONING PANIC!



SIDEWINDER AIMED THE CLASSIC PEACEMAKER 45 AS THE COACH GAINED CATASTROPHAL FLIGHT!

HE FIRED ONCE, AND ONE OF THE ORANGE RED EYES DISSOLVED IN A FOUNTAIN OF DARK GREY SMOKE AND A SPRAY OF BLOOD.

THE BLACK POWDER CARTRIDGE ERUPTED WITH A FLAME THAT SPREAD ACROSS THE NARROW, SKINNY FACES OF THE COACHMAN AND FOR A MOMENT, SEEMED TO DISSOLVE THAT HIDEOUS RICHTS GRIN.



THE STAGE SWAYED AND BUCKED AND LUNTED AND SWUNG AND TALONED FINGERS, AND THE AIR WAS THICK WITH MADLY HURTLING SHADOWS!

VEINED, MAMMOTH WINGS SWIFTLY WIDENED TO A SPREAD OF EIGHT FEET! THEY CAUGHT THE NIGHT WIND AND ASSUED THEIR MATED TO THE SKY!

THE SINEWY FORM CRASHED
INTO HIM. ITS
WINGS BEATING
VANALLY, ITS
HORRIBLE JAWS
REARING BACK AND SNAPPING!

IT REEKED OF
DAMP EARTH AND
SOIL DECAY...AN
INVADING,
DISTURBING
SENTRY OF
DEATH!

ITS REMAINING
ORANGE-RED EYE
SKIMMED HIM
PASSIONLESSLY
A PEEK INTO
THE LOWER
DEPTH OF
HELL!



SIDEWINDER TWISTED AND KICKED,
TRYING TO BREAK FREE, AND
SUDDENLY THE STAGE WAS SWEEPED
OUT FROM UNDER HIM!

HE HUNG SUSPENDED A MOMENT
AND THEN WAS DROPPED WITH A
HARSH JOLT AGAINST THE
JAGGED ROCKS!

SILENCE FELL FOR ONE AWFUL
INSTANT...



THE STREETS OF CEMETERY CREEK WERE RIPE WITH THE SMELL OF HORSES' WASTE, HORSES NOT BEING PARTICULAR AS TO WHERE OR WHEN THEY'D DROP A LOAD... WHETHER OUTSIDE THE SHIFTY VULTURE EMPORIUM AND SALOON WHILE TETHERED, OR IN THE MIDDLE OF MAIN STREET AND THE COMMERCE CENTER, OF WHICH THE UNDERTAKER DID MOST OF THE COMMERCING! IT MADE NO NEVER MIND TO A MORSE!



THE TOWN HIRED A PUBLIC SERVANT OF LITTLE WISDOM TO PALETT UP AT ONE END OF TOWN, AND THE DUNG HEAP BECAME A CONVENIENT SIGNPOST FOR GIVING DIRECTIONS! IN THE HUNDRED PLUS DEGREE WEATHER OF JULY, YOU COULDN'T MISS IT! IT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO AROUSE A SUN-BLISTERED, BADLY WOUNDED MAN FROM HIS WAKING FEVER DREAMS!



NO STUMBLING OR STAGGERING OR TREMBLING FINGERS... NO LOW MOANS OF PAIN BETRAYED THE ONSLAUGHT THAT THE MAN CALLED SNAKEWINDER HAD ENDURED THAT DAY.



A STUFFED VULTURE HELD DOWN OVER THE ROOM. ITS GLASSY EYES CAPTURING A SWIFTNESS OF SPIRIT! UNSEEINGLY IT DOMINATED THE RESIN-STAINED WALLS, THE UNVARNISHED BAR OF FRESHLY-HEWN WOOD.

THE HEAVY FARO TABLE BRIGHTENED BY THE LURID COLORS OF A RESIDENT "SOILED DOVE". THE BLACK, UNUSED STOVE WAITING FOR WINTER, THE ADS FOR SHOOTING IRONS DONE WITH GRAND SUNSETS AND MONUMENTAL VISTAS POPULATED WITH MEN OF HEROIC DIMENSIONS!



WHAT THE HELL KINDA RUGGED HOUSE YOU BEEN THROUGHT?



GUESS VALERIE HERE CAN GIVE YA SOME MEALIN'...RIGHT, VALLY?

VAL'S ONE O' OUR LITTLE
"SOILED DOVES". PAYS SEVEN
BUCKS A MONTH TO THE TOWN
COMMITTEE AN' GETS A
LICENSE TO WORK RIGHT
DUTTA BREWSTER'S
EMPORIUM!







SIDEWINDER!



THE TIMBERED PAVINE HAD FALLEN TO THE JAW AND SAWS THE STUMPS OF ASPEN AND PINE WERE DARK, USELESS
EPITAPHS NEVER READ OR UNDERSTOOD!

I DRIFTED DOWN
HERE FROM MONTANA BEEN
ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE LAW MORE IN I'VE
BEEN WITH IT!

IGHT SAY I
BEEN WHERE YOU ARE,
MISTER, AN' LIKE AS NOT BE
BACK THERE AFTER THIS
JOB IS OVER!



RATHER DO WHAT
I DO... LIVE ON MY HOT
AN' TALENT!

ME AN' THE SHILLS,
WE BEEN TRAVELIN' AROUND
WITH THE LITTLE PEA FOR
AWHILE! KEEP IT COMPANY,
YOU MIGHT SAY!

SAWE
YOUR BREATH,
BOY! YOU
AIN'T GONNA
LIKE WHAT
YOU'RE BOUT
TO SEE!

FUES BUZZING...THE HELLISH SOUND
RECKONED THE MEN TO THE
CARNAGE...!



AS THE HORRIFIED TOWNSMEN GAZED ON THE SHREDDED BODIES AND THE SMATTERED CARGO RAKING IN THE SUN.



THEY REALIZED THAT THEIR ISOLATED, FRAIL LITTLE TOWN...AND THEIR EQUALLY FRAIL LIVES...
WERE IN THE GRIP OF AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE, UNEARTHLY AND IMESCAPABLE...HORROR!

TO BE
CONTINUED!

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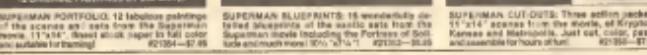
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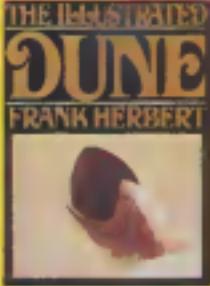
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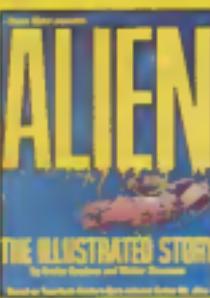
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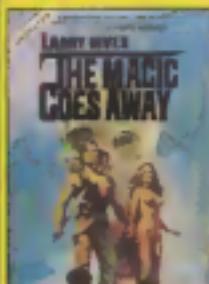
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